

Make it safe. Clean it up. Close it down.

B371 MAA closes, SNM gone

By Ed Bodey

The last remaining Material Access Area (MAA) on site, B371's MAA, was closed Aug. 8, 2003, paving the way for the elimination of the Protected Area and signaling the end of an era for Rocky Flats and its 50-year history of handling weapons-usable plutonium and uranium.

Closing the B371 MAA and the site PA is, without question, the most significant accomplishment to date in the cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats. "It effectively ends the operations this plant was built for," said SNM Removal Project Manager Bob Leonard.

"Today's event represents a significant accomplishment but cleanup is not over, stressed Schmitt. "A great deal of difficult and complex work remains," said DOE Rocky Flats Rocky Flats Manager Gene Schmitt.

The final campaign to remove material from B371 and the site included more than 2,000 "9975" shipping containers carrying packages of metals, oxides and composites. Composites consist of plutonium bonded to a variety of materials. Several hundred "DT-22" containers containing enriched uranium were also packaged and shipped.

Completing the last of the packaging and shipping project beats a Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement milestone by 12 years.

"Packing and shipping was the easy part," said Leonard, who named several external entities involved in determining disposition pathways for the large and diverse Rocky Flats inventory. They included the Savannah River Site, Pantex, the Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos National laboratories, the Y-12 Plant at Oak Ridge, DOE environmental management and national nuclear security agencies, and a host of public officials and citizen groups. "There were a lot of players and everyone had their own perspective," he said.



The end of nuclear operations and closure of the MAA will allow 371 Project personnel to focus on D&D activities. The Project has removed 174 glovebox equivalents to date – 263 remain.

Eight-Year Effort Pays Off

Shipping the remaining weapons-usable material from Rocky Flats concludes an eight-year effort by the Kaiser-Hill team. During that period, tremendous effort was made to ensure the safety and security of the material. Early on, workers in the plutonium buildings aggressively solved legacy safety issues by repackaging materials and draining and processing liquids. Shipping campaigns tackled SNM pits, hemishells, alloys and parts. Weapons-usable material was consolidated from several locations on site. And the Rocky Flats protective force, responsible for ensuring the highest levels of security for SNM, continually received the highest ratings possible during annual evaluations.

The last major undertaking was a several-year effort to bring on-line and operate the Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System that canned plutonium metals and oxides for compliant, 50-year storage. Size-reducing SNM composites required by late shipping container changes was also completed.

"Getting this material off site is a tremendous accomplishment and the culmination of everything we've had to do with regard to weapons-grade material since day one," said Kaiser-Hill President and CEO Alan Parker. "I can't think of a group within the Kaiser-Hill team that didn't play a role in either protecting, accounting for, processing, packaging or shipping," he said. "When we started this job in 1995, we were known as the most vulnerable plutonium facility in the country. Now we're the first to eliminate the threat."

The End of An Era

"Rocky Flats just dropped off the radar screen of any terrorist or third world country that might have been thinking about using material from here to make a nuclear weapon," said Classification Office Manager Steve Cunningham. "It would be extremely cost-prohibitive – nearly impossible, really – for anyone to attempt to make nuclear weapons from the waste material that remains here," he added.

However, what remains at Rocky Flats still requires an appropriate level of protection and control. Frank Lamb, manager of Holdup Measurements, said that SNM still remains on site. "By definition, one gram of plutonium is classified as SNM," he said.

Removal of the last weapons-usable material from the site significantly reduces security requirements. PA closure saves an estimated \$2

– Please see B371 MAA on Page 4



Like thousands of other SNM shipments in Rocky Flats' history, two Safe, Secure Transports leave Rocky Flats. Removal of all weapons usable material from the site is a major milestone in the cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats.

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Decommissioning on fast track in B371/374



Don Hall size-reduces equipment in the 3521 canyon. The three-person “dive” team on this day, consisted of Don, Tim Dowd, and RCT Steve Cloud.



D&D worker Laura MacCloud applies Radiac Wash™ to the surfaces of a pallet. Once decontaminated, the four foot square pallets are packaged for disposal as low-level waste.

By Joel Zarret

Decommissioning activities in B371/374 will increase in intensity now that nuclear operations are complete and SNM has been removed from the building. To date, 174 of 437 glovebox equivalents have been removed. With 19 crews removing remaining gloveboxes, tanks, filter plenums and process piping, the schedule for demolishing the two buildings will improve significantly.

Completed in 1980, B371 was

constructed to replace B771, the aging plutonium recovery facility where operations began in 1953. With 315,000 square feet of floor space, B371 is twice as large as its predecessor and is the largest Type I facility (the most highly contaminated of facilities – there were seven Type I facilities, six remain) to be demolished at Rocky Flats.

B371 was designed much differently from B771, incorporating many advancements to minimize worker exposure to hazardous

materials. The huge Central Storage Vault (CSV) in B371 featured a remotely operated Stacker/Retriever (SR) to retrieve SNM cans from the vault and introduce them directly into gloveboxes via one of eight input/output (I/O) stations. The system kept cans behind shielding at all times, avoiding worker exposure to radiation during transfer and bag in/out.

Whereas processes in B771 were performed in gloveboxes by workers in relatively close contact with plutonium, B371 featured large rooms, or canyons, in which the same processes were performed remotely by workers outside the canyon’s concrete walls. Canyon interiors were designed to be highly contaminated and were engineered on the building’s zone 1 exhaust system, the same system that pulls large volumes of air away from glovebox interiors. Water-filled windows provided the only viewing of equipment in the 3521, 3523, and 3531 canyons, where plutonium nitrate solutions were converted into metal.

These features left large areas in B371 highly contaminated. The building’s 11 canyons encompass more than 5,000 square feet of floor space with several extending more than 20 feet into the attic. The interior of the CSV, which traverses the width of the entire building and reaches a depth of 40 feet below the main floor, has more than 40,000 square feet of surfaces to be decontaminated.

Entries into the canyons to strip equipment and prepare surfaces for decontamination have

begun. Workers wearing both a powered air purifying respirator and a supplied air suit are stripping electrical equipment and draining and removing tanks. Following strip-out, the canyons’ floors, walls, and ceilings will be decontaminated and then fixed.

More than one third of 1,149 pallets, on which SNM cans were stored in shielded containers, have been removed from the CSV. Pallets are retrieved by the SR and moved to an I/O station where they are decontaminated, removed, and packaged. Following pallet removal, crews in supplied air suits will enter the CSV and remove pallet racks and the two S/R units. Scaffolding will be constructed so that crews can remove 1,428 racks and decontaminate and fix the CSV’s floors, walls and ceilings.

Sludge removal activities continue in B374, where the site’s largest tanks reside. To date, more than 36,000 gallons of sludge have been pumped from 25 tanks using a single concrete pump. The interiors of these tanks have been decontaminated and fixed. Sludge removed to date was packaged in 120 crates as low-level mixed waste. Yet to be removed, are about 8,000 gallons of transuranic-mixed sludge that will be packaged in 55 gallon drums. The largest tanks, 801A, B and C, are 18 feet in diameter, each with a capacity of 30,000 gallons. Washington Group, the demolition subcontractor will extract these tanks through the roof prior to demolition and ship them whole as low-level waste.

SAFE PROGRESS - 2003
DO YOU OWN A COOL RIDE?



**Join the “Ride”
to kickoff the Safe Progress BBQ
August 28, 2003**



All types of motorcycles and cars, (Classic, Cool, Cheesy) are encouraged to participate. The ride will conclude at the picnic site for display. Please sign up soon so plans can be finalized. If you are interested in participating, complete and return the form below via site mail to:



Melody Ambrose X4554 - Mountain View
Mike Giacomini X7620 - Bldg. 130
Linda VanDeVeere X4764 - Bldg. 115
J.D. Thompson X2349- T130E (Union Trailer)
Emails will be accepted as well.



Name: _____ Work Phone: _____

Project: _____

Motorcycle: _____ Car: _____



Job development efforts hit full stride

By John Corsi

The Kaiser-Hill Work Force Transition (WFT) program is running at full speed as Job Development team members work with local companies and organizations to develop partnerships and create job opportunities for our excellent Rocky Flats work force.

To date, more than 30 local companies and organizations, including Raytheon, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Fitzsimons Complex and Amgen, have shown interest in the skills our workers can bring to their organizations. The team is promoting both hourly and salaried workers.

At the request of the Job Development team, last week Governor Owens sent a letter to 35 targeted companies that could potentially offer opportunities to Rocky Flats workers as the Closure Project proceeds and employees move on. The Governor's letter is one of many efforts the team is pursuing.

One example is an aggressive outreach program. It focuses on local businesses, legislative representatives, chambers of commerce, economic development councils and small business associations promoting our skilled employees to potential employers.

A unique program is also being developed with the Denver Newspaper Agency (owner of the *Denver Post* and *Rocky Mountain News*) to advertise Rocky Flats workers to employers. In the near future, Kaiser-Hill will place a full-page "reverse" advertisement in the Sunday *Denver Post*. This kind of special advertising is called a reverse ad because instead of waiting for companies to advertise their openings, employees can advertise to them. The ad will feature a list of available Rocky Flats workers and their skills. Each worker will be identified only by an identification number that employers can use to access his or her resume on KHecareer.com.

Placement in the ad will be available to only those affected employees who wish to participate. The Job Development team plans to run several reverse ads beginning this fall and continuing throughout closure.

The Denver Newspaper Agency has also agreed to host a special job fair for Rocky Flats workers that targets employers needing skill sets similar to those found at the site. The job fair is an excellent opportunity for workers to meet prospective employers without standing in line with other job seekers from the Metro area. Details about upcoming job fairs will be in future editions of *Endvision*.

The Job Development team is currently exploring transitional opportunities for Steelworkers. Under Kaiser-Hill President and CEO Alan Parker's guidance, the team is working with the site unions so Steelworkers can potentially come back to Rocky Flats as Building Trades workers. Parker and KH senior management are also meeting weekly with Steelworkers to talk about this initiative and others as well as answer any questions or con-

cerns.

For those willing to move, opportunities for salaried and hourly workers are being explored at other DOE sites. Positions will be posted on the job posting board at www.KHecareer.com and updated as new contacts are established with other sites. The Job Development team also intends to personally visit with the CEOs of specific sites to further enhance opportunities for the work force.

A specialized, biosciences training program is being created for those Rocky Flats workers interested in changing careers. Once developed, workers can enroll in the program

toric undertaking that we should be very proud of, but our time here is limited. Making a successful career transition from Rocky Flats will require a proactive effort on everyone's part. Kaiser-Hill is committed to helping each employee transition to life after Rocky Flats, but the ultimate responsibility belongs to you.

Keeping our workers in Colorado

Kaiser-Hill Company, Safe Sites of Colorado, Wackenhut Services LLC, Rocky Flats Closure Site Services, DOE-RFFO and lower tier sub-

contractor employees who have received their layoff notice and attended the Getting Started Workshop at the CTC can access job posting on KHecareer.com. The Job Development team contacts companies and posts open positions on www.KHecareer.com under the Job Postings Board. To participate in great new opportunities like the "reverse" ads and *Denver Post*-sponsored job fairs, it is your responsibility to visit the CTC and, more importantly, make sure you get your resume on the Website as soon as you receive your layoff notice.

The Rocky Flats work force contains virtually every kind of profession or skill a Colorado business might need.

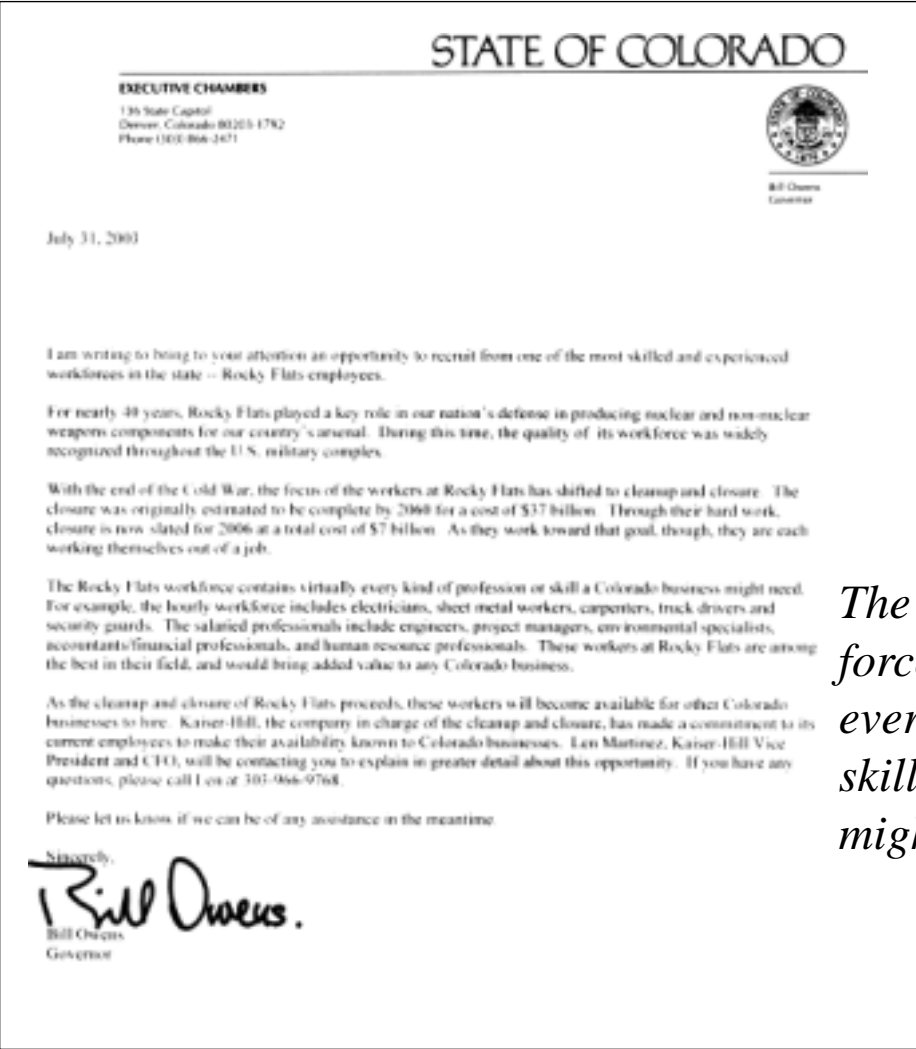
— Bill Owens
Governor

The process is simple; you start by filling out a master application, which then automatically puts your information and job history into a resume format which can be posted on the online Job Postings Board. Placing your resume on the Board is important because more and more companies are accessing www.KHecareer.com to fill their open positions. This includes a number of companies who are looking for people who have or once had clearances, but cannot advertise their positions for security reasons. Once your resume is posted, hiring companies can access your information and, if there is a skills match, contact you directly for an interview.

Why is a resume important? In many cases, unless you know someone, a strong resume and cover letter is your only chance to land an interview. The average hiring manager reviews more than 1,000 resumes to fill a single position listed on popular job sites like Monster.com or in the classifieds sections of the *Denver Post* or *Rocky Mountain News*.

The Kaiser-Hill Job Development team is creating opportunities. Turning those opportunities into a job is part of your role in a successful transition.

For additional information on the Job Development Program please contact John Corsi, Kaiser-Hill, at 303-966-6526.



The Governor Owens' Office sent letters to the top Colorado employers encouraging them to consider the talented and skilled Rocky Flats work force when searching for candidates.

designed to transition workers to a career in bioscience, biotechnology or to lab techs. The pilot program could begin as early as October. Those who successfully complete the program will be able to pursue jobs in private industry and organizations, such as the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and Bonfils Blood Center.

Job Development team members are also working with representatives from the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Project, a \$4.3 billion life sciences hub for the biotechnology industry in Aurora, to identify future opportunities for construction workers and others. The redevelopment project is the first university-affiliated "biopark" to be developed west of the Mississippi River and will incorporate the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and Hospital Complex, The Children's Hospital and the Fitzsimons Commons Town Center. Total employment levels at Fitzsimons are expected to reach more than 30,000, with jobs in teaching, patient care, basic-science research and biotechnology research and development, pharmaceutical production and the supporting infrastructure around the Fitzsimons campus. Construction is currently underway.

The Rocky Flats Closure Project is a his-



B371 MAA

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million per month that can be directed toward more cleanup work.

“It’s a bittersweet moment,” said Jody Giacomini, SNM project manager. “It’s exciting to finally reach a goal we have been working toward for so long, but it will also be difficult to say goodbye to a lot of friends,” she said. Many Rocky Flats employees involved in plant protection and safeguards and security are moving on to lend their expertise to other sites.

Brenda Douglass, manager of Material Control & Accountability, a group that has been key to maintaining the Rocky Flats inventory over the years, said that MC&A activities will continue, “probably until the last item of transuranic waste is shipped off site.”

MAA Closure: The 7th Time Is A Charm

According to Lamb, closing the B371 MAA, the last on site and the seventh MAA to be closed, required more than 2,000 scans to make sure no attractive quantities of SNM were present in or around the building.

In addition to all gloveboxes and tanks in B371, we scanned every cargo container, every wall cabinet – anything and everything – ten-foot-section by ten-foot section, attic to sub-basement,” said Lamb. He said that 75 mea-

surements were made of the ground outside the building.

Complicating matters, drums containing radioactive waste couldn’t be stationed anywhere within 10 feet of where measurements were occurring — meaning thousands of drums had to be relocated as scanning progressed. “Jim Floerke and his team really had their hands full with so many drums to move,” said Lamb.

Closing the B371 MAA was the smoothest MAA closure yet. “Jody Giacomini provided excellent leadership,” said Lamb. “She helped us incorporate lessons learned from previous MAA closures and also made it possible for use to work in parallel with DOE’s Safeguards & Security group so that we could resolved their concerns sooner rather than later.”

Wall-to-wall measurements began in March 2003.

Medical moving to T130C

Occupational Medicine and Internal Dosimetry will be moving from Building 122 to T130C early next month.

All services currently offered at B122 will be offered in the new location. Site services are currently completing repairs to damage from last Spring's snowstorm and reconfiguring the

envision

is published every other Wednesday for the benefit of all Rocky Flats employees. We invite your letters to the editor, story suggestions and comments. The deadline for approved stories is 10 a.m. on the Monday following AWS-Friday.

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trailer to meet the Medical Department's needs.

Building repairs and the build-out should be completed by the end of August and the move should be completed in early September.

The move is intended to free up B122 for D&D activities while continuing to provide medical support for site workers.

declassifieds

AUTOMOBILES/ MOTORCYCLES

1983 Jeep J10 truck, 40,000 original miles, very good condition, \$4,000 or best offer. Robert, 303-743-0057.

1991 Cadillac Sedan Deville, runs great but needs tune-up to pass emissions, Blue book value \$3,500, will sell for \$2,000 or best offer. Neil, 303-274-9192.

1992 Eagle Talon Tsi AWD coupe, 2.0L turbo, 5-speed manual, 95,000 miles, AC, power, cruise, leather, rear spoiler, tinted windows, clean, silver and black, looks fast, runs fast, great car, \$4,500 or best offer. Jim, 303-423-2405.

1995 Ford Contour, 75,000 miles, good condition, new tires, great student car, son bought his own so must sell, \$3,100. Al, 303-485-2079.

1995 Honda Accord EX sedan, V6, 2.7 Liter, 84,100 plus miles, loaded with extras, new battery. \$8,400 or best offer. Karen, 303-666-8273.

1999 Toyota Sienna, 67,000 miles, automatic, V6, tan, great condition, auto sliding door, keyless entry. \$15,900. Nan, 720-890-7655.

1999 BMW 323i. 4-door, loaded, 42,000 miles, \$21,500. Rod, 303-431-2484.

2000 Chevrolet Venture LS, excellent condition, V6, auto, low miles, loaded, \$10,500. Dave, 303-346-9625.

2000 Honda Shadow Sabre, 2,800 miles, windshield, saddle bags, radio, lots of extra chrome. Donna, 303-944-7151.

2000 BMW K1200RSA motorcycle, showroom condition, 3,900 miles, full luggage with liners, yellow/gray, AeroScreen with AeroGards, Throttlemeister, BMW cover, new battery, TailBlazer and Lite Buddies, \$11,900 – negotiable. DJ, 303-921-1745.

MISCELLANEOUS

Bronco tickets for Indianapolis (last preseason), Friday, Aug. 29, 7:00 p.m., Sec. 229, Row 15, Seats 3 & 4,

south stands, \$50 each. Bill, 303-422-7433.

Fanatic Viper Ultra Lite sailboard, full set-up with 6.7 sail, great entry/mid-level board, \$200 or best offer, Mike, 303-776-3613.

Small bird cage with accessories, \$20; computer games, \$5 each; Veggie Tales (videos, CDs, cassettes, DVDs, and stories with cassettes) \$5 each. Angie, 303-469-1997.

Wooden swing set with slide, observation platform, etc.; Burley Encore 2-person trailer, excellent condition. Greg, 303-438-1585.

Renter wanted for a 2-bedroom, 1 bath, ranch-style townhouse, 80th and Chase, new central air, new appliances, new floors, new paint, pool, clubhouse, carport, ready in October or sooner if needed, perfect for any 3rd tier employee here on temporary basis, \$800 per month with option to buy after 1 year. April, 303-583-0648.

For rent, condo in Arvada, available Sept. 1, 1500+ sq. ft., nice, quiet area,

84th and Garrison, 2 bdrm., 1 bath, A/C, all appliances incl. W/D, 1 car garage and large storage area, will consider pet, \$950. Hank, 303-422-3216.

TRAILERS/CAMPERS/BOATS

1976 Wilderness Trailer, 20 ft., needs work, \$2,600. 12 ft. x 17 ft. wall tent, \$350, Greg, 303-582-9179.

Camper shell (topper), white fiberglass, for full-size, short-box pickup truck, good condition, \$150 or best offer. Mike, 303-904-3765.

1998 Yamaha Waveraider jet ski, 80 hrs., excellent condition, all accessories included, \$3,000. Robert, 303-743-0057.

VANPOOLS/CARPOOLS

Vanpool, Longmont to Rocky Flats with stops in Boulder, day, AWS, low rates, guaranteed ride home for illness or emergency. Richard, x7757, 303-772-3015.

Declassifieds

- Only Rocky Flats Site employees are eligible to place ads.
- Please use the form at right to submit your ad. Or send your ad via e-mail to Jackie Powers, or via the Intranet (Home Page/News & Info/Communication Division/Declassifieds).
- Ads should be no more than 20 words.
- Check category in which the ad is to be included.
- Home phone numbers must be used in the ads, except for items in the Lost/Found and Vanpools/Carpools categories.
- Site extension must be included (in case information needs to be verified).
- Only one ad per issue (ads will not be re-run unless they are resubmitted).
- Ads for garage sales or personal businesses will not be run.
- Ads for real estate can be placed only by owners and will include the phrase “for sale by owner.”
- No ads for guns/other weapons will be accepted.
- Mail or bring ads to T130B, Cube 80.
- Declassifieds are accepted on a first-come basis.
- Deadline is six working days before the desired publication date.
- Employees who submit fictitious ads will be subject to disciplinary action based on company standards of conduct.

Category (check one)

- Animals

• Automobiles/Motorcycles

• Lost/Found

• Miscellaneous

• Trailers/Campers/Boats

• Vanpools/Carpools

• Wanted

Text:

Name (first and last):

Home phone: Site extension: